Voting of Demands for Grants—(*contd.*)

Demand No. VI—Excise—Rs. 3,01,295.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 3,01,295 under "VI—Excise." I have not many observations to make in explanation of the items that constitute this expenditure, as the items are the same as those of this year, and as the amount is less than this year's revised budget by Rs. 2,300. The necessary explanations have already been given by the Finance Member in his memorandum explaining the details of the budget estimate for the next year.

So far as my department is concerned, serious objections are taken not to the items of expenditure but to the receipt itself. Some of the non-official Members vehemently urge that the department should not earn any income from the use of liquor, but that the Government should prohibit its use. They also criticise the Government's Excise policy.

Even in the first budget session of this Council there was a discussion about the Governmen'ts Excise policy, and I stated then as follows with regard to that policy :—

"I have only to say, at this stage, that, surrounded as our State is by the British and Travancore territories, our State cannot have and has not an Excise policy different from that followed by those territories. We find the existence of the drink evil, and it has been in existence from several centuries past. As it appears to have taken a deep root, it cannot be eradicated all at once by a single stroke of the legislature. It can only be gradually done away with, and it is with that object that the tax is imposed upon intoxicants, and it is increased from time to time. When the tax is increased, there is a marked tendency for a decrease in consumption, though, from a financial aspect, the revenue of the Government is bettered. It is this policy that has been followed in the Madras Presidency, and both our State and the Travancore State have adopted it. This policy is thus one which brings in the maximum of revenue with the minimum of consumption, as stated by the Finance Member in his financial statement, and is aimed at gradual prohibition." (Page 289 Volume I, budget session of 1100.) I also stated then that the general policy of both the Government of India and the Madras Government is to minimise temptation to those who do not drink and to discourage excess among those who do, and I also explained how, in furtherance of this policy, various measures were introduced both in the Madras Presidency and in our State to wean people from drink and thus reduce the drink evil.

During that discussion, however, some of the non-official Members expressed a strong desire for appointment of an Excise

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Committee in Cochin, and the Government in deference to their wishes appointed an Excise Committee towards the end of 1101, and they were requested to go into the whole question of the Excise administration of the State and investigate and suggest means for improving the same. The labours of the Committee are practically over, and the report is ready for submission to the Government. The Government, therefore, will be in a position soon to consider the recommendations of the Committee.

It is stated by the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam in the course of the general discussion of the budget, that, while other governments are realising the mistake of making the liquor traffic a source of revenue and taking steps to reduce consumption, our Government like the *Rip Van Winkle*, is sleeping undisturbed. He further says that it is a wonder to him that the Excise Superintendent is ignorant even of the existence of a Vigilance Committee in Travancore. He remarks that in Travancore 5% of the liquor shops is reduced for every succeeding lease, and asks "What have we done here?"

I regret to have to observe that the Hon'ble Member only sees what is going on elsewhere, but refuses to see what is being done here, or that, if he sees what is being done here, he sleeps over them with his eyes open. Some of the most effective expedients adopted for minimising consumption and the evils of drink are:—

(1) Reduction in the number of shops;
(2) Gradual raising of duty;
(3) Limitation of private possession without permit; and
(4) Restriction of the hours of sale.

I have already stated in this House that all these expedients are being taken in our State also. From 1092 the number of both toddy and arrack shops is reduced almost every year, so that, while the number of toddy shops in 1092 was 574, the number for 1103, is only 429, and while the number of arrack shops for 1092 was 293, it is only 230 for 1103. The number of toddy shops in 1101 was 452, this was reduced to 441 in 1102. So the reduction was nearly 2½%. The number of arrack shops for 1101 was 251, but it was reduced to 241 for 1102. The reduction was, therefore, nearly 4%. As stated already, the number of toddy shops for next year is only 429. So the reduction for next year of toddy shops is nearly 2¾%. The number of arrack shops for next year, as already stated, is only 230. So the reduction of these shops is a little above 4½%. In Travancore toddy and arrack shops are disposed of biennially, and the reduction in their number is for each biennial lease. So for each year the reduction is only by 2¼%, whereas in our State

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reduction is much more than that. We are, therefore, much ahead of Travancore in this respect. There is, therefore, absolutely no foundation for the charge brought by the Hon'ble Member on this account.

With regard to the raising of duty, we have been gradually raising it in the southern taluks ever since 1097, and I may say for the information of the House that our rate of duty and tree tax for next year is a little higher than the rate prevailing in the adjoining Travancore territory. In common with the policy of the Madras Government, we have also reduced the limit of private possession with regard to arrack to six drams. But with regard to toddy, we are ahead of the Madras Government, for while one gallon is allowed there, here only half a gallon is allowed. With regard to restriction of hours of sale, we have also, in common with the policy of the Madras Government and Travancore, limited the closing hours from 9 p. m. to 8 p. m. from next year. We have also introduced some minor measures to reduce consumption, namely, prohibition of the sale of liquor to children under 18 years of age (formerly the prohibition of sale was only for children below 14 years of age) and of the sale of arrack to women. The Hon'ble Member asserts that there is a Vigilance Committee in Travancore, in spite of my denial to the contrary. My information about its non-existence is based on the letter of the Travancore Excise Commissioner who says that no such committee was appointed by his Government. This letter was received by me only 7 months ago. These will show that the charge of stagnation brought forward by the Hon'ble Member is entirely without any foundation.

The Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam says that our Excise policy is one of exploiting the poor and illiterate people. This is not a new charge levelled against the Excise policy which we are pursuing and which is the same as that followed by the Government of India, but was levelled even before 1912. But the gentleman who preferred that charge then found out that the charge was not true and apologised for the imputation.

In 1914 the Revd. Herbert Anderson said as follows :—

"The Government has disposed, to some extent, of our past contention that great and rapid expansion of revenue implied heavy consumption, while the evidence also disproves the aspersion we are said to have cast on the character of District Officers and other officials of sacrificing the welfare of the people to considerations of revenue. We regret sincerely any suggestion of our representations have contained, that officers of the Government have pushed the sale of liquor or drugs for revenue

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purposes at the expense of the welfare of the people. The suggestion is not true, and we apologise to the officers concerned."

Again Rai Bahadur Dr. Chunilal Bose made the following remarks in 1917:—

"There is no department of Government whose work is looked upon with greater distress and disapproval by the general public than the Excise Department, and the charge often levelled against the Government is that it trades in liquor and drugs, and its officers indirectly help the spread of the vice of drinking for the purpose of increasing government revenue. It cannot be denied that this impression has got a strong hold on the popular minds and cannot be easily eradicated. But this charge, I am glad to say, cannot be substantiated by trustworthy evidence. If one goes beneath the surface, he will see that the Excise policy of the Government has always been friendly to the cause of temperance. He will further find that Government has, from time to time, promulgated various measures calculated to encourage and foster a habit of temperance in the people, to check the growth of intemperance and to minimise the evils of liquor traffic." (*Vide page 57 and 59 of Mr. Strathie on "Excise and Temperance in Madras" 1922.*)

Before concluding, I only wish to refer to the observation of the Madras and the Travancore Governments on the Excise Revenue. The Madras Government in passing orders on the recommendations of the Excise Committee say as follows:—

"The main practical difficulty in adopting a policy of prohibition is, however, one of finance. Any measures which would involve the abolition of or even a substantial reduction in the Excise Revenue can be initiated not only after new sources of revenue have been indicated or planned, but after they have begun to yield."

The present Minister of Excise in Madras says that he cannot find any means to carry on the administration of the country with the Excise Revenue abolished.

The Travancore Government say as follows:—

"It is not the desire of the Government to derive revenue from drink to the detriment of the welfare of the people of the State. The policy of the department has been to make it increasingly difficult for the consumer to obtain strong drink. The reduction in the number of shops, the raising of the liquor duties and other restrictive measures which the Department has adopted are forces tending to control consumption. Every care is taken to minimise temptation for those who do not drink and to discourage excess among those who do. The temper-

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ance movement and the movement for absolute prohibition spread the erroneous idea that the Government create and foster an unwholesome demand which would cease automatically, if the State were ready to forego the Excise Revenue. When it is recognised that sources of illicit supply are easily accessible in the State and that liquor can be had from almost any palm tree with no more skill than is required to make an incision and with no more apparatus than a knife and a toddy pot, it will be conceded that Government intervention only operates to regulate both the quality and quantity of the liquor consumed, the former by the prescription of certain standards of strength, and the latter by the levy of still-head fees which the consumer automatically pays." (*Vide page 32, Travancore Administration Report of 1101.*)

These remarks fully apply here also.

It is said that consumption is on the increase here every year. I may say that this feature is not peculiar to our State alone, for in Travancore the consumption of arrack in 1100 was greater by 6,524 and odd proof gallons than that in 1099 and greater in 1101 by 2,855 and odd proof gallons than that in 1100.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I will produce proof.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I want some information. What is the principle the Government is following in the issue of temporary licenses during fairs and festivals?

President.—Does that come under this cut motion?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.— Temporary licenses are issued on the occasion of fairs and festivals and during the harvest season. The principle underlying the grant of temporary licenses is that the existing shops in the locality will not be able to meet the demand on such occasions. If we do not issue temporary licenses, the result will be the importation of illicit liquor and the introduction of several other illicit practices.

President.—There is a particular man who has taken up a contract. Instead of issuing these temporary licenses, could he not be asked to supply such quantity as will satisfy the needs on such occasions?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.— It is impossible for one shop or even half a dozen shops to minister to the needs of 50,000 people; every one of whom will require liquor

President.—Practically it is impossible.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes, Sir. That is the difficulty. The shops will become unusually crowded, and they find it difficult to supply liquor.

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Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—And in regard to the principle underlying the issue of temporary licenses in the harvest season?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—During harvest, people find it difficult even to get drinking water. It is said that toddy allays thirst, and that it serves as a food. That is the reason why, on the occasion of harvest, temporary licenses are issued.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I want to put one question, and all the arguments will be based on the answer to that question. Is it or is it not the policy of the Government that it should derive revenue from these people, i. e., is the Government influenced in any way from the point of view of revenue? I remember to have been once told that it is not. May I know whether the Government sticks to that position?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—If the people do not want liquor, then the Government do not want any income out of drink.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Page 27, *Boat establishment* —one syrang and one rower at Rs. 12 and Rs. 9 respectively provided. I would like to know what the special work of these men is.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—They are employed when the boat is taken for patrol purposes and by the Superintendent for going to Malippuram.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Does the Hon'ble Member draw T. A. for going to Malippuram?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—What is the justification? May I know whether the Government has given such conveniences to other officers?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is found extremely difficult to get decent boats for hire when I have to go to Malippuram, and whenever a boat is required for patrol purposes. The Superintendent has to go to Malippuram very often during the storage season of salt, which is 6 months in a year. He has to go to Malippuram very often in the rainy season also. For the information of the Members I may also say that I have to engage three or four rowers more.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Have not the other Government officers, as the Diwan Peishkar and others, to visit Malippuram in the rainy season, and why is it that they are not given such conveniences?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—They have not got the duty of passing salt, and they need not go there as often as myself.

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President.—The Diwan Peishkar and the Police Commissioner have.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Are they also allowed?

President.—Yes.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—May I know if the Government is in possession of any statistics to know how much toddy is consumed in each taluk?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We have an approximate estimate of fermented toddy produced and consumed in each taluk.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—Are the figures of any year available?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The approximate yield of the trees we can give.

President.—Could we not say that whatever is produced is consumed?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes, Sir, if there is no smuggling from frontier shops.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—The statistics hitherto revealed do not give that.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—In British India also they do not give such statistics.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I want this information just to know the extent of the thirst of our people.

President.—Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, are they available?

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—It is enough, if it is placed on the table during lunch time.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes, Sir. I can supply the information but not to-day.

President.—Now, we shall proceed with the consideration of cut motions.

The Superintendent's Office Establishment.

Motion No. 1.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,267 for "Establishment" by one rupee.*

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I have to reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,267 for establishment by one rupee. At the outset, let me make clear my object in moving this cut motion, which is to abolish licenses for sweet toddy tapping and follow the policy in British Malabar. In the course of my speech I have to answer some of the points raised by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Excise Department. Even if I deviate a little from this, the purpose of my motion, as I have already stated, is to abolish licenses for sweet toddy-tapping on which I wish to have a division of this House.

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The Hon'ble Member has given me credit by quoting so very often from my budget speech, and I have to thank him for this special treatment accorded to me. But the main point which I urged and which this House has to consider seriously, I am sorry to say, the Member has forgotten to mention, and that is the quantity of consumption per head in our State is twice as much as the quantity of consumption per head in Travancore. Is this not the main issue which we have to consider? Whatever steps we may take or whatever steps we may fail to take with reference to the consumption of liquor, this is the fact which we have to take into consideration while discussing our Excise policy. I challenge the Hon'ble Member to prove by facts and figures that we have done so much as in Travancore to reduce consumption, and that our consumption of liquor per head is the same as in Travancore. To pass on. The Member in the course of his statement said that, if the people do not want drink, then the Government is not concerned with the loss of revenue. That is a statement quite acceptable to this House. But mere verbal statement is not enough. May I ask the Hon'ble Member whether the Trichur Municipality has not asked to abolish the liquor shops within its jurisdiction? May I know whether the people of Kunnamkulam did not petition the Government for the abolition of the liquor shops in the town? May I know whether all the shops in the Ernakulam Municipality have been removed as requested by the Municipality there? These are specific issues on which the Member has to offer an explanation and to convince this House that the Government are not concerned with the loss of revenue. I had submitted to the Government a Bill to introduce local option, and the Government did not allow me even to introduce the Bill in this House. If the Government wanted to know the opinion of the representatives of the people in the House on this matter, they should have given me permission to introduce the Bill. If the people do not want to close liquor shops, I am not here to ask for their closing. I am prepared to take the decision of the people in this matter. In the face of these facts, I wonder what led the Hon'ble Member to say that the Government are prepared to forego the revenue from liquor traffic. I ask the Hon'ble Member to substantiate his statements by facts and figures. I quoted from the speech of the Diwan of Travancore, and specified on what occasion he made the speech. The Hon'ble Member has not controverted what I cited. He quotes figures of consumption in our State, and says that we are in advance of Travancore. I ask what is the consumption here and there per head? Again, another argument put forward by the Hon'ble

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Member is that we have increased the taxes. I ask the Hon'ble Member himself to peruse the figures of consumption and prove to this House that there is a reduction in consumption. The figures of this year are here, and let this judge whether my charge that there is no reduction in consumption holds good or not. In 1101 for fermented toddy cocoanut trees tapped are 61,900. In 1102 they increased to 62,708 and to this we have to add the trees tapped in Karkadagam. Palmyra trees in 1101 are 8,256, and this year by the end of Edavam itself it rose to 9,176. Sagos for 1101 are 4,460, and for this year till the end of Edavam are 4,547. This shows that, calculated till the end of Edavam 1102 alone, there is an increase of about 500 cocoanut trees, 1,000 palmyra trees and 100 sago trees. These figures show that there is no reduction in consumption but an increase in consumption. I challenge the Hon'ble Member to quote figures and convince this House that there has been a gradual reduction of consumption of liquor in our State. I am ready to prove otherwise. The other arguments, which the Hon'ble Member has put forward I am prepared to meet by facts and figures, but, as the time at my disposal is very short, and as I have to speak a few words on the motion which I have placed for the acceptance of this House, I do not venture to do it at present. Now, I may say that sweet toddy tapping and the manufacture of jaggery ought to be encouraged, as it is a cottage industry. Many poor and illiterate people are engaged in this, and it is from this that they get their livelihood. Last year, at the request of this House, the Diwan was good enough to abolish the fee for licenses; but now, I request you to abolish the licenses for tapping for sweet toddy as in British Malabar. The Hon'ble Member has been saying that we are following the policy in British India, and I now ask the Hon'ble Member for Excise to adopt here the policy followed there in this matter and encourage this cottage industry and help the poor people who are engaged in it.

President.—His complaint is this. We do not charge anything now for sweet toddy but only insist that licenses should be obtained. What if we do away with these licenses also?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—That is my point, Sir.

Government were good enough to take into consideration the interests of the people and abolish the license fee, and what is the result that we find? This year there is an increase in the number of trees tapped for sweet toddy. Cocoanut trees from 6,015 last year increased to 6,550 this year. This unmistakably shows that, if sufficient encouragement is given to the people and the industry is encouraged, we can expect very good results.

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President.—If we do not insist upon licenses, it follows that anybody can tap. The question is whether they would make use of it for illicit purposes.

Unless it is absolutely necessary, we need not divide the House in this matter. We should see whether Government can accept it.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—We have got preventive forces as in British India.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—But our preventive force is much inferior to that in British India.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Why? Is it not due to lack of organisation, supervision and training?

President.—The real difficulty is this. We do not levy any fees but only insist on the licenses being obtained. They are permitted by the Government for tapping sweet toddy, and the license, of course, creates an obstacle in the way. They have to dance attendance before aminadars, etc., and these people are exacting terms. They say 'Unless you give me one rupee, I won't give you license, etc.', and the poor people are put to great trouble. The question is whether these difficulties can be got over, if we abolish these licenses also.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is impossible for my preventive staff, constituted as it is now, to detect successfully illicit tapping, if the granting of licenses is done away with. We have got registers showing in which locality the trees, for which licenses are granted, are, and in which compound they stand. We have got a record of the trees which are licensed for jaggery tapping. We can find out malpractice by going over to those spots, and also can find out, during patrol, if any trees are tapped for fermented toddy.

President.—If we dispense with licenses, will you have any objection?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I shall have absolutely no objection, provided my department is organised on the lines existing in British India.

President.—You have already proposals before the Special Finance Committee, and they are considering them. Now, the question is this. Supposing the Committee is prepared to sanction your proposal for strengthening the detective staff, then, are you for abolishing this license?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I may say I shall not have any serious objection. We have already launched the experiment of dispensing with the license fee this year, and before we dispense with the granting of license, we have to see the result of that experiment. Wherever this jaggery tapping has been made free, malpractices are rampant. In British India

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and in the southern parts of Travancore, this practice is going on. The Government of these places say so.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—You speak on authority, Sir?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Any official report?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I will refer the Member to the report of the Travancore Excise Committee published in the Travancore Gazette. In British India they find it difficult.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—You speak about the British Government?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Wherever we go, we see that. In Madras they have got the Excise Commissioner and Circle Inspectors with very high remuneration, and our State is a drop in an ocean when compared to the Madras Presidency.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know what is the salary of the Excise Commissioner in Travancore and that of the Excise Superintendent in Cochin? If we compare the area, we can understand more or less.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—He has got 14 assistants to supervise.

President.—Is there ample necessity for it? If we find any difficulty in carrying on this free tapping for sweet toddy without license, we should refuse to accept it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Shall I bring another point in this connection? In theory it is perfect. It so happens in the Chittur Taluk that a number of people were refused licenses.

President.—I can very well understand. We have to depend upon a low-paid man, and he is likely to put them into trouble, and you cannot get the license for the mere asking. Then there is the question whether we can carry on this work without granting these licenses. This is bound to cause disturbance. This is not a question of revenue.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—If such a state arises, we shall take away the license. In British Malabar it is working.

President.—Before deciding the question of granting the concession, the various aspects of the case should be discussed, and once it is granted, it is for ever. That is the principle upon which we are proceeding.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Even in the Madras Presidency, in some of the special tracts, the system of granting licenses still prevails.

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President.—I had many complaints last year, saying that it was of no use giving them this concession. Government lost a few rupees; but nevertheless the tappers are put to considerable difficulties and illegal exactions. (*Hear, hear.*) Of course, these things were brought to my notice. I consulted the Superintendent of Excise. That is the situation. These people are put to inconvenience. Why not we dispense with the licensing system? Of course, all these difficulties were pointed out by him.

Mr. O. R. Chummar.—Is there any restriction to the issue of licenses?

President.—No restriction at all.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Licenses are given to *bona fide* jaggery tappers?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know whether the mover will have any objection to withdraw his motion, if the issue of licenses can be regulated to the entire satisfaction of the tappers?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What is the method?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—That will have to be discovered by the Government. It is not for me to suggest.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I can suggest a method—by the cancellation of licenses.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—Well, Sir, it is all the trouble of *Mamool* in the Excise Department. If that *Mamool* is done away with, and we have got respectable men in the service, we have absolutely no trouble. It may be due, perhaps, to the want of respectable men as Abkari Inspectors. They should not be aminadars promoted. You must have respectable men as Inspectors, and whenever you get them, you don't take them. The Superintendent of Excise must have a complete check upon the man. It all depends upon the man, not upon the system. If you have no license in the Excise Department, you will not be able to control illicit traffic. The license must be there, and at the same time, the tappers must get it without trouble. The Government must find out the proper man.

President.—The difficulty is not in the issue of license but in the conduct of persons. Is that what you say?

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—Exactly, Sir. I complain of that and that alone.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Both, Sir.

President.—We expect the Finance Committee will deal with the question in a suitable way. Till that, we will go on with the present policy, and therefore, the motion may be discussed and put to the vote.

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Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—In seconding this motion, I have to state with the utmost regret that this provision to obtian licenses for jaggery tapping and the evils attendant upon it have served to undermine this staple cottage industry, by which more than six thousand of His Highness' subjects have been earning their livelihood by independent profession, thereby supplying cheap jaggery for the inhabitants of the whole State. This is a state of things which has really to be regretted, and the Department looks on with the most obdurate unconcern at foreign jaggery being imported and sold cheaper here than home made jaggery (P. 1254 L. S. 1101). Hundreds of tappers from our State have already emigrated into British Malabar, Ceylon, Singapore and Penang leaving their dear ones at home in order to exercise their profession peacefully in a foreign country, because they find it too difficult to exercise their profession in their own country. A rich man cannot realise the pangs of a poor man who separates from his family and relations to wander in foreign lands, to earn a livelihood for the dear ones at home. But the force of circumstances forces him to do it, so much so, that there is now a dearth of tappers in our State at present, and I understand that Christians are beginning to try to take up this profession now. The cultivator who pays hard cash as tax for his land finds that there is nobody to tap his sago tree which is otherwise perfectly useless for anything else, except that its leaves can be used as food for elephants.

Well, what is all this due to except difficulties attending upon jaggery tapping in our State? The Madras Government recognised the necessity for making jaggery tapping free and without license long ago, while our Government, even after repeated complaints from jaggery tappers through this House, have not yet begun to realise the necessity for making jaggery tapping free and without license. This is all the more urgent, since jaggery tapping has of late become highly difficult on account of the undesirable conduct of the subordinate staff of the department, the details of which I have set forth in the budget discussion of 1100.

During the budget discussion of 1100, when these circumstances were pointed out, the Hon'ble Member for Excise exclaimed that, if I had brought these circumstances to his notice before, he would have dismissed the servant then and there. I did not think that the dismissal of a Government servant was so easy as that. Such chivalrous ebullitions and exclamations can never mend matters. During the legislative session of 1101, he told us, Sir, that he is conscious that his department also is not immune from the frailties of other departments. I can grant it

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I can tolerate a very large extent of it, but when it becomes insuperably heavy, and that, upon a class of people who are unable to bear it and equally unable to get out of it by themselves, it is the duty of this House to take serious note of it. We have seen how he has dealt with a petition at page 203, L. S. of 1102. The poor petitioners therein had requested a temporary transfer of the Aminadar concerned, against whose conduct they had complained in order to save them from his clutches, and the irony of fate is such that he is not transferred to this day, but allowed to remain where he is to take vengeance on his just calumniators, and the result is, as I understand, that many of them and their near relatives were charged with Abkari offences in the course of the year, and the moneyless tappers had to submit to their lot, while others were forced to seek a livelihood in foreign lands on account of the same Aminadar who drove them to Colombo and other places. The House will be surprised to hear that tappers who had remitted their money into the Government Treasury and waited for ten, fifteen, and eighteen days were charged for beginning the preliminaries of tapping simply because of the latches on the part of the Excise officers. The answer supplied to question No. 144 put by me in the legislative session is sufficient to alarm any man who knows anything about tapping. Trees that are under tapping go dry, if they are not tapped for four or five days consecutively. Nobody wants to have the tree which he has brought under tapping conditions after much labour to go dry, so that every tapper has to arm himself with new licenses for the next year. To my question as to how many applications were received for the succeeding years for tapping jaggery in Karkadagam in the years 1098, 1099 and 1100, the answer is:—

1098	Karkadagam	Nil.
1099	,,	Two supplemental applications.
1100	,,	Two original and 2 supplemental applications.

Whereas in the first quarter of

1099	1,580 originals and 107 supplemental applications.
1100	1,500 originals and 150 supplemental applications.
1101	1,746 originals and 157 supplemental applications.

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I do not know how so many supplemental applications come in at the beginning of the year, and how those trees are tapped during the period necessarily required for the grant of licenses. I am sure that during the intervening period the tappers are at the tender mercies of the Excise officers. However this may be, the above figures illustrate lucidly my statement in the budget session of 1100 that the grant of licenses to jaggery tappers is postponed to that of the fermented toddy tappers. The Government thus seems to have its income more at heart than the welfare of the people.

President.—I deny that.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—The aboiition of license fee for jaggery tapping can do absolutely no good, if the Government is acting with this principle before them, and the Excise officers are allowed with impunity to go on like this.

For question No. 415 (c) as to whether the Government will make enquiries and state why foreign jaggery is sold cheaper here than home made jaggery, the answer is that this matter will be referred to the Economic Development Committee for investigation. This really looks like tit for tat, especially in the face of the fact that there was no such Committee at all at the time when the answer was given. Further, this answer seems to show that the department has no concern at all with the improvement and development of industries connected with it.

As for the aboiition of license for jaggery tapping, I think it is not proper on the part of the Government to wait for the decision of the Excise Committee which has long been overdue. For my part, I am not one who have so much belief in Committees. During these days when all governments are trying to encourage cottage industry and to bring into being new cottage industries, it is unjust, to say the least of it, on the part of our Government, to stifle this already existing cottage industry, and not do all in its power to induce other people also to take to this industry. I may also state that cocoanut trees which are already taxed to Land Revenue are further taxed for tapping. This, I should think, is double taxing which all governments should avoid.

Again, with regard to the grant of licenses to new tappers, the Department seems to be very reluctant. This is denied by the Member for the Department, although available facts show otherwise, as is seen from the answer that, out of 107 and 170 new applications in 1100 and 1101, only 17 and 108 were granted licenses for tapping jaggery.

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Lastly, what the department proclaimed in support of the retention of licences is that it is intended as a check upon illicit distillation. This, it is submitted, is a most incorrect view of things. The remedy is becoming worse than the disease. The department is found to be perfectly powerless to detect and punish the delinquents among its own officers (p. 1254.) This is a most sad state of affairs. No other department of responsible government, I think, will be bold enough to make such a statement of affairs. The excuse is that they find it impossible to get evidence, but my information is that it refuses to take evidence against its officers even if offered. You cannot get evidence, if you sit quiet, and say that you cannot get evidence. Even now, I understand, there is a petition, long pending with the Superintendent of Excise, or at least unreplied to by the Government, against the Kunnamkulam Aminadar, who seems to hold the same position as the camp clerk who is out at large as an Aminadar now and against whom there were so many interpellations in this House. The petitioner asked me what could be done to make the department take evidence upon his petition or at least to get a reply to his petition. I could not give him any reply.

Further, to strangle an industry for the mere fear that there is likely to be black sheep among them is, I should think, a very bad argument. Our Medical men do not kill their patients, because they are suffering from any disease. We do not close our courts of law, because there are professional litigants, tonts, etc. Similarly, every other department of government. Therefore, this mode of excuse also does not serve the purpose.

And, after all, is there any use in maintaining this licensing system in order to check illicit production? I do not think it is useful in the least. I cannot understand how it serves the purpose except if it be by discouraging jaggery tapping by harrassing the tappers and thereby decreasing the number of sweet toddy tapping trees. Whether a tree is marked or not you have to examine the contents of the pot in order to ascertain whether it is fermented toddy or not. Marking the letter "J" on a tree cannot convert fermented toddy into sweet toddy. So it is perfectly evident that it is sufficient to mark the fermented toddy trees by the letter "T" as it is now done to distinguish them from jaggery tapping trees without marking the latter. All trees not marked are jaggery trees, and that is as good as their having being marked. Again, whether a tree is marked or not, you have to go in search of the tapper. The name of the tapper is not marked on the tree. So there is no additional burden in

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this respect also. I see, therefore, absolutely no force in this argument.

I do not maintain that the removal of this licensing system is a panacea for all ills to which the tappers are subject at the hands of the department without effective supervision by the authorities concerned. When the licensing system is abolished, the temptation will be to concoct false charges against innocent tappers, but I will not foresee that difficulty now, but will rather leave it to be dealt with as they arise by the officer in charge of the department.

With these words I move this motion for the consideration of this House.

Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.—I don't want to speak. I support the motion and have to ask one simple question whether they have known how much jaggery is being imported into the State from the British Districts and from Travancore.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No information.

President.—Dr. A. G. Menon, do you like to speak ?

Dr. A. G. Menon—That is a party question. If necessity arise, I shall speak.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I heartily sympathise with the spirit of the motion, and would have been glad to support it, if the motion were that the regulation of the issue of licenses may be placed on a better footing than at present. There is no disputing it that jaggery tapping is a staple industry in the State. There is also no disputing the fact that, on account of the illiberal policy of the Excise Department and the unsympathetic attitude of certain officers in the department towards tappers, that industry has declined, and that from Travancore and British Malabar a lot of jaggery is being imported into the State every year. I may also have to add that many of the jaggery tappers have been playing into the hands of the toddy tappers or the toddy farmers, so that the abolition of the license by itself will not be an adequate remedy. We have to find something more. It may be that it is very difficult to find it, but, Sir, we will not be justified in cancelling the licenses and allowing full freedom to jaggery tappers to play into the hands of the toddy tapper or to tap toddy himself.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the use of the preventive force ?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—You will have to maintain one man for each tree. As the Hon'ble Member for Vyttila said, the remedy lies elsewhere. The defect is not in the system, but in the men that are appointed under the system, and the remedy is to be sought there. You have to appoint proper men for the issue of licenses. If you succeed in appointing proper men

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there is absolutely no difficulty. Therefore, I cannot support the motion as it stands.

Dr. A. G. Menon. –Just a word of opinion. If the Government have no objection to issue license to all who produce a certificate of *bona fide* from the Panchayat President, there will be an end of the difficulty. The whole trouble seems to be from the construction of the word *bona fide*.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I had already refuted the charge made that the granting of licenses and the imposition of a small fee of 4 annas, 6 annas and 8 annas for each tree had crushed the jaggery industry. It has not the effect of killing the industry. Before 1081 the fee for jaggery tapping was enormous, that is to say, at the time when the farming system was in force, and when the fee was realised by the farmer. Abkari farmers were demanding even Rs. 10, Rs. 8, etc., for each tree. In 1082 the Government abolished that system, and introduced this levy of a small fee of 4 annas, 6 annas and 8 annas. I had already mentioned in this House on the last occasion that the number of trees allowed for jaggery tapping was increasing since 1082, and it ceased to increase about 1097 or 1098, when, on account of the increase of the rates of tree-tax for fermented toddy in the southern taluks, the granting of the licenses has to be limited to *bona fide* tappers. Then, there was a fall. From 1098 there was a steady increase. So it is not at all correct to say that our policy has in any way tended to crush the jaggery industry of the State. Now, with regard to the doing away with the licenses, last year all the Hon'be Members pressed only for the abolition of the license fee, and I think the Hon'ble Members forKunnamkulam and Cranganur specifically stated that it is necessary to continue the system of granting licenses. I do not blame them for changing their views, because it is my idea also to recommend to the Government the abolition of the licenses. It is not my view to continue the system for all time to come. Now, we have abolished the imposition of the fee. We are seeing how the system works, and if we find that everything goes right, and the preventive staff is well organised, I am the first man to recommend to the Government the abolition of the granting of the licenses. At present, of course, as stated by the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam, the particular name of the tapper is not marked on the tree in order to prevent tapping for fermented toddy.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I did not say anything.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is the Member for Vadakkancheri, I beg your pardon. But, as I said, we have got

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a register showing the names of those persons to whom jaggery licenses are issued. Then, the only difficulty that stands in the way of doing away with the present system is the difficulty of controlling malpractices. If that is also overcome, there is absolutely no objection to do away with the system of granting licenses. Even in Travancore, where you have got a well-organised Excise staff, they have not thought it fit to do away with the system of granting licenses, except licenses for palmyras, which are common in some of the southern taluks adjoining Tinnevelly, in those taluks. Then, the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam was saying that I had not met his argument as to the alleged increased consumption here. It is said that the consumption of arrack here is twice that of Travancore. I do not know where he got this information from. On the other hand, when I referred to *the Administration Report* of Travancore, I found that the consumption per head of population in Travancore in 1100 was 1·356, whereas here it was 1·7. I cannot see how the consumption here is twice.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The figures have been worked out by the Prohibition League of India.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I got the figures from the official records. *The Administration Report* of Travancore.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The figures for that also are taken from *the Administration Report.*

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I fail to understand to which petition it is that the Member for Vadakkancheri referred, when he said that the petition against the Kunnamkulam Aminadar is still pending. There is no such petition in my office which is pending.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—It was put in Chingam. May I know whether any reply was sent to the petitioner? May I know whether any reply was sent to the petition?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—That petition was duly enquired into by me, and as stated already, it was found that though there were several signatories to that petition, none of them had any personal knowledge of the allegations contained therein, and that the petition itself was the outcome of enmity between certain persons of Kandanasseri and the preventive staff The petitioners, most of whom were examined by me, one and all submitted that they did not know, and had no direct knowledge of any amount having been given to the Aminadar or any member of the executive staff. That is why I did not take further action upon the petition.

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The motion to reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,267 under "VI—Excise—Establishment" was put to vote and lost.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur —Poll, Sir,

A poll was taken. The following was the result of the poll:—

	For		Against.
1	Mr. I. E. Ambooken	1	Rao Bahadur Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar
2	Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur	2	Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon
3	Mr. A. Eachara Menon	3	Mr. C. Achyuta Menon
4	Dr. A. G. Menon	4	Mr. K. Achyuta Menon
5	Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar	5	Mr. George Chakyamuri
6	Mr. C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri	6	Mr. O. R. Chummar
7	Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja	7	Mr. P. Damodara Menon
8	Srimati T. Madhavi Amma	8	Mr. K. Govinda Menon
9	Mr. K. T. Mathew.	9	Mr. K. P. Karuppan
10	Mr. S. F. Nunez	10	Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon
11	Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon	11	Mr. M. Krishna Menon
12	Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar	12	Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon
13	Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar	13	Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi
14	Dr. A. R. Meron	14	Mr. P. Kunju Muhammad
15	Mr. A. Sankara Puduval	15	Mr. C. Matthai
16	Mr. A. K. Thoma	16	Mr. C. A. Ouseph
		17	Mr. I. Raman Menon
		18	Mr. Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur
		19	Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar
		20	Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar
		21	Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese

Motion No. 2.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,730 for "Establishment" (including leave allowance) by one rupee.*

Mr. K. T. Mathew. – Sir, I move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,730 for "Establishment" including leave allowance by rupee one. The object of this motion is that no temporary licenses for fairs and festivals should be issued. There has been much talk about this in this Council, and it is not now necessary for me to dilate upon this and take the time of the House. I have to bring to the notice of this House only one fact, and that is, occasional licenses are not issued in British India, where there are shops already. We have often heard from the Hon'ble Member that we are following the British policy, and I may just request the Government to accept this policy of the Madras Government in this matter and to go a step forward and abolish the system of issuing temporary licenses for fairs and festivals.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—On a point of information. Now, I am told that there are two permanent shops in Cranganur. Will they be supplid with any amount of arrack?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Oh, yes. Any amount.

President.—The shops will have to be enlarged.

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Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Are they allowed to make very big sheds? Then there is no use in stopping issue of temporary licenses. Once we stop the issue of temporary licenses, the existing shop-owners will erect a big shed temporarily. Then the purpose will not be served.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I was struck by the excitement of many people congregating at Cranganur during *Bharani*. I was there during the last *Bharani* festival.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Sir, I second the motion. When I had to make a few observations on a cut motion when we were discussing supplementary grants, I brought this question along with my friend the Member for Kunnamkulam into prominence, and the reply of the Government was typical of it. The first was that the Cranganur *Bharani* festival—excuse me, Sir, if in the course of the discussion I refer to this heinous festival often.

President.—Why heinous?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—That is my sincere opinion. It is a matter of opinion, and I don't think there will be many who will be wounded by that.

The Cranganur *Bharani* festival is typical of the evil consequences of issuing temporary licenses, and it is typical also of the unrestricted policy of the Government in issuing temporary licenses. The reply of the Government was that it was on account of some religious observances of the pilgrims that this issue of temporary licenses was necessitated. I deny that. It is incorrect in theory. It is not a correct answer, and then the other is the needs of the pilgrims necessitate this. That is also not correct. It is not for the Government to cater to their wants in the line of this evil luxury. It is for those who want to drink to go to shops, and in fact, most of the respectable drunkards, if there are any like that (*Laughter*), go to shops that are out of the way.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Covering their head with cloth.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—It is a very sorry spectacle to see the temple premises surrounded by these toddy shops. At least, these shops might have been located elsewhere.

President.—That is a matter of location.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—That also must be taken into consideration when we discuss the policy of the Government. My point is that there is absolutely no necessity for the issue of temporary licenses. There are two contractors, one for toddy and one for arrack, both situated near this congregation. Their compounds are sufficiently wide to accommodate any number of men, and it is not for the Government to anticipate any complaint

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either from the contractors or from the pilgrims, and to say that they must be supplied at the considerable risk of the morality of the place. The schools are open during these days, and many respectable people, apart the moderate drunkards, who have absolutely nothing to do with drink, have to pass. The public offices are near these shops, and it is a nuisance to them. Apart from the ideal of morality, there is the question of expediency. I appeal to the House, not in the name of the party alone, but also to the Members on the other side, not to view this from the standpoint of revenue to the Sirkar, but from a higher standpoint, and put a stop to this practice at once.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph —Sir, I support the motion. I have already made myself clear on this point, that the issue of temporary licenses is a most inequitous practice. (*Hear, hear.*) Allowing our brothren to drink and die is in itself bad, and when festive occasions arise allowing opportunities for drinking, more and more is worse. Sir, do poeple go to Cranganur for drink? (*Hear, hear.*) They go to worship. From the arguments on the other side, it would seem that all these people congregate there to drink. Stop supply of drink for a day. What will they do? Will they break their heads on the stones there? No. They will return to their houses.

President.—They will drink from elsewhere.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.— Let them go and have it. And by the time they return from Travancore or British territory, they will become sober and safe. (*Laughter*). Let that religious place be a haven for sound and sober men to resort to and not for drunkards. For these reasons I support the motion.

Mr. V. B Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I have only to repeat what I have said before. So far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, I have already explained to this House on a former occasion that our rules in regard to the question of granting temporary licenses are substantially the same with only this modification. There, occasional licenses are given to those who are renters of shops in the vicinity. Here we do the same thing when the number of shops in the vicinity is insufficient. Practically, there is absolutely no difference. I have already told this House the principle upon which temporary licenses are granted. They say, if there is no liquor at the locality, persons will become sober. This argument will equally apply in the other case also. That is not what we find in practice, when there is demand and no supply.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—What do we find?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We find all sorts of illicit practices.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—In a day?

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Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—In half an hour.

President.—Now, we shall put the motion. But, was this the very motion that we put to the vote of the House on the first day of our meeting ?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—With your permission, I shall explain, Sir. We discussed a supplementary grant under "Cranganur—Excise—Refunds" and the question was confined to Cranganur alone. When we were discussing the Cranganur budget the question of the general policy of the State did not arise. It was confined to the Cranganur *Bharani* alone. The whole policy of the State could not be discussed, when we were discussing the Cranganur budget. Now, we are discussing the general policy of the State. I submit it is not an identical motion.

The motion to reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,730 for "Establishment including leave allowance," Excise, by one rupee was put to vote and carried.

President.—You want a poll ?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—No, Sir.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I want a poll, Sir.

A poll was taken.

	For.		*Against.*
1	Mr. I. E. Ambooken	1	Rao Bahadur Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar
2	,, Chakko Cheruvattur	2	Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon
3	,, A. Eachara Menon	3	,, C. Achyuta Menon
4	Dr. A. G. Menon	4	,, K. Achyuta Menon
5	Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar	5	,, P. Damodara Menon
6	,, C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri	6	,, K. Govinda Menon
7	,, C. A. Kunjunni Raja	7	,, V. K. Kochunni Menon
8	Srimati T. Madhavi Amma	8	,, M. Krishna Menon
9	Mr. K. T. Mathew	9	,, T. K. Krishna Menon
10	,, S. F Nunez	10	,, K. Krishna Pisharodi
11	,, C. A. Ouseph	11	,, C. Matthai
12	,, N. Padmanabha Menon	12	,, I. Raman Menon
13	,, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar	13	,, Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib
14	,, K. S. Rama Ayyar	14	,, V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar
15	,, M. K. Raman	15	,, A. K. Vengu Ayyar
16	Dr. A. R. Menon	16	Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese
17	Mr. A. Sankara Puduval		
18	,, A. K. Thoma		

Motion No. 3.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,730 for the "Superintendent's office establishment" by Rs. 100.*

The above motion was not moved, as the mover was absent, and so it was taken as withdrawn.

Fish Curing yards' Establishment.

Motion No. 4.

Mr. K. P. Karuppan.— *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 32,986 for "Fish curing yards' Establishment" by Rs. 31,416.*

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മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കരുപ്പൻ.—കുറെകൂടെ ഫിഷ്കൃറിങ്ങ്യാർഡുകൾ തുറന്ന് ആ തൊഴില്ലാരായ അരയന്മാരെത്തന്നെ ജോലിക്കാരായിനിയമിക്കുവാൻ ഏർപ്പാടുചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള വിഷയത്തെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനായിട്ടാകുന്നു ഈ മോഷൻ അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—ഇതു ടോക്കൻ മോഷൻ അല്ലെന്നാണല്ലോ കാണുന്നതു്. അതുകെയുള്ള നഷ്ടൻവന്ന രൂപയിൽ നഷ്ടർത്തന്ന രൂപയും കുറച്ചുകളഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കരുപ്പൻ.—ഒരു രൂപാ എന്നാക്കിയാൽ മതിയാകും. മേല്പറഞ്ഞകാര്യം ഇവിടത്തെ ഒന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കികൊണ്ടു് പിൻവലിക്കണമെന്നേ എനിക്കു ഉദ്ദേശമുണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളു.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—ഇപ്പോൾ മൂന്നു യാർഡുകൾ ഉണ്ടു്. അതു, ഞാറക്കൽ, ചെല്ലാനം, കാതിയാളം എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിലാണു്. ഇനി എവിടെ എല്ലാം വേണമെന്നാണു അതുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു്?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കരുപ്പൻ.—ഓച്ചന്തുരുത്തു്, അഴീക്കോടു്, കുമ്പളഞ്ഞി. പിന്നെ ഒന്നു തുടങ്ങണം. തല്ക്കാലം ഇത്രയെ ആവശ്യമുള്ളു.

മിസ്റ്റർ ജോർജ്ജു് ചാക്യാമുറി.—ടെയൺ അതുത്തിക്കായാൽ വിഷമം ആണു്. തുടങ്ങുന്നതിനുപകരം മുളവുകാട്ടിൽ മതിയായിരിക്കും.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—ടെയണിൽ ന്യൂസൻസായിട്ടുള്ളതൊന്നും പാടില്ലല്ലോ.

ദിവാൻ ബഹദൂർ ഡാക്ടർ വി. വർഗ്ഗീസ്.—തുടങ്ങുന്നു സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. വലിയ ദുർഗന്ധം ഉണ്ടാക്കും.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു.—എന്നാൽ തുടങ്ങുന്നു വേണ്ടെന്നുവയ്ക്കുന്നുതൊ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കരുപ്പൻ.—വേറൊരു സ്ഥലത്തായാലും മതിയെന്നുവയ്ക്കാം. വിരോധംമില്ല. സാർ, ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് അധിവസിക്കുന്ന ഫാർമർ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം പേരും മത്സ്യം കഴിക്കുന്നവരാണു.

ദിവാൻ ബഹദൂർ ഡാക്ടർ വി. വർഗ്ഗീസ്.—സർ, അവിടെ ഇപ്പോഴുതന്നെ മീൻ ഉണക്കുമ്പോൾ എനിക്കു വീട്ടിൽ താമസിപ്പാൻപാടില്ല. അത്ര നാറ്റമുണ്ടാകുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഒരു വിധത്തിലും തുടങ്ങുന്നു സാധിക്കുകയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കരുപ്പൻ.—നാറ്റം ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെയാണു് അവിടെ ഒരു യാർഡുവേണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ബോധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു്. അപ്പോൾ ദുർഗന്ധം ഉണ്ടാകാതെ മരുന്നിട്ടും മറ്റും സൂക്ഷിക്കാനും എളുപ്പമുണ്ടാകും.

ദിവാൻ ബഹദൂർ ഡാക്ടർ വി. വർഗ്ഗീസ്.—ഒന്നുകൊണ്ടും അവിടെ സാധിക്കയില്ല. അടുത്തുള്ള വക്കു താമസിക്കണം.

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പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—ആവശ്യമുള്ളവർ ഹർജി കൊടുക്കട്ടെ. അപ്പോൾനോക്കാം. കാതിയാളത്തു ഒന്നുവേണമെന്നുഅവിടെയുള്ളവർ അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടാണു ഒരു യാർഡു് അവിടെ തുറന്നതു്. ഇതു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു പ്രയാസമുള്ളകാര്യമല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കരുപ്പൻ.—ഇതുവരെസ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെല്ലാം അപേക്ഷകരെ കൊടുത്തിട്ടല്ലെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. അതിനാൽ ഹർജികൂടാതെതന്നെ സ്ഥാപിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. ബി. വൈദ്യനാഥയ്യർ.—ഹർജികൾ കൊടുത്തതിനശേഷംതന്നെയാണു് എല്ലായാർഡുകളും തുറന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കരുപ്പൻ.—ഇടീഷിലും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും അങ്ങനെയല്ല. ഇവിടത്തെ പതിവു അതുപോലെയാണെങ്കിൽ അവരെകൊണ്ടു ഹർജികൊടുപ്പിക്കാം.

President.—I should like to ask Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar whether we can profitably open fresh Fish Curing Yards.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—When requests come from the inhabitants, we will consider.

The motion was not pressed.

Motions Nos. 5,6 and 7.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 31,416 for "aminadars, etc.," by one rupee.*

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 32,986 for "Establishment" by Rs. 100.*

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,428 for "Establishment" by one rupee.*

The above three motions were considered withdrawn, as the Member did not move them.

Allowances.

Motion No. 8.

Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,500 for "Travelling Allowances" by Rs. 100.*

Mr. Poulo Mampilli was absent, and therefore, his motion was taken as withdrawn.

At this stage the House rose for lunch.

The Council met again at 3 p. m., when the Deputy President, Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon, presided.

President.—We have advanced up to motion No. 9. It stands in the name of Mr. M Krishna Menon.

Contingencies.

Motion No. 9.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 650 for "Tour charges" by Rs. 500.*

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—I beg to move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 650 for tour charges by Rs. 500. On page 27 of the budget I found Rs. 650 allotted as tour charges for the

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Excise Department. But on turning to page 53 of the budget I found only Rs. 150 allowed as tour charges for the Police Department. Unfortunately, because I was a member of the Excise Committee, I knew something about these tour charges, what they are, and what use there is for that amount. There is absolutely no justification for the Excise Department to have any amount as tour charges much more than that of the Police Department. The Excise Superintendent has no more area to travel than the Police Superintendent. He need not carry any records with him except a petition for license or a pound of salt as a sample, and I do not know why the Excise Superintendent should be given Rs. 650 as tour charges which is to be utilised for carrying records primarily. With these remarks, I beg to move that this Rs. 500 may be deducted out of Rs. 650.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Sir, I second the motion. On the showing of the Excise Superintendent himself, we can more or less know that this large amount is not necessary. The Government conveyance is at his disposal whenever he has to go on a long journey. That will be the most expensive item. My other reasons are more or less those already given by the mover of the resolution. In view of the fact that, as a member of the Excise Committee, he has convinced himself that this large expenditure is not necessary, I believe there will be no two opinions in this matter in this House, because the Excise Committee is one that has been appointed in pursuance of the request of this Council.

President.—I hope there is nobody on the non-official side who desires to speak on the subject.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Sir, it is not correct to say that the Excise Superintendent or any other member of the executive staff has no necessity to carry any records with him. When we go to the previous years' records, we find that till the year 1096 the tour charges came to Rs. 400, Rs. 600 and Rs. 800. In 1097 and 1098 the charges went over Rs. 1,000. In 1099 the actual amount was Rs. 637. In 1100 it was Rs. 606. In 1101 Rs. 494, and in 1102 it was Rs. 490. This consisted of the tour charges incurred not only by the Excise Superintendent but also the Inspectors. The Inspectors have to conduct enquiries just like the Magistrates according to the provisions of the Abkari Regulation. Whenever they have to go, they have to carry with them several registers. For that purpose Government fixed Rs. 300 for their tour charges. Formerly the amount had not been fixed. About two years ago the tour charges that could be incurred by the Inspectors were limited to Rs. 300. Then I have also to meet the officers and pass orders upon the reports of enquiries conducted by the Inspectors. I carry with

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me reference books and registers, and they are conveyed in about 3 or 4 boxes. Sometimes, if I have to go to certain places—of course, they are very rare—I have to carry also furniture. Books and records I have to carry, and I take particular care to minimise the expenditure as far as it lies in my power. I do not spend any money for anything other than purely Sirkar purposes, and as far as the Malippuram journey is concerned, I do not carry any record worth speaking.

I carry only about two sample bottles of salt. The Assistant Superintendent's post has not been filled up from 1099, and I have to go on tour to various parts to see that everything goes on well. That is why the amount has gone to Rs. 650. In the Diwan Peishkar's Office we find that the amount budgetted for touring charges is Rs. 1,200. But I do not say that, because that amount is allowed in that office, therefore, at least half the amount should be allowed to me. By experience it has been found that this amount is absolutely necessary.

Mr. C A. Kunjunni Raja.—In the Education Department the touring charges come to only Rs. 360.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I do not know whether they carry with them records.

Mr. C A. Kunjunni Raja.—You may also refer to any other department. It comes only to Rs. 360 and not more than that.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Moreover, our Inspectors are given boxes by the Government to take records, thermometers, hydrometers, etc. They have to take these records and instruments whenever they go for shop inspection, patrol and conducting of enquiries.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—In the Public Works Department also they have to carry instruments, etc., and they are given only Rs. 212.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I only stated facts and I do not think any useful purpose will be served by my going alone without my records and registers.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—The complaint is that the amount is far above the amount required for the department.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is from experience that it is found to be absolutely necessary.

Mr C. Achyuta Menon.—Here I may mention this fact. There was no such expenditure till comparatively recently. Till then there was no demand.

Mr K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Till then it was met from "Miscellaneous" or 'Office expenses".

Dr. A. R. Menon.—In this department the expenditure of T. A. itself has gone to something like Rs. 2,000 in addition to

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the tour charge which comes to another Rs. 650. There must be an end to all this increase in expenditure.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—There is no such expenditure in Myore and Travancore.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—If this is cut, then of course, myself and my officers will cease touring.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—The sooner that is done, the better.

President.—I wish to take the sense of the Council on this point. The question before the House is whether the tour charges of the Excise Department should be reduced from Rs. 650 by Rs. 500, that is to say, from Rs 650 to Rs. 150.

The motion was put to the vote of the House and carried.

Motion No. 10.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs.6,685 for "Taluk Establishment" by Rs. 100.*

This was considered withdrawn, as it was not moved.

President.—The next item stands in the name of Mr. M. Krishna Menon.

Boat Establishment.

Motion No. 11.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 252 for Boat Establishment.*

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—The next item, I am afraid to move, on account of the threat put forward by the Excise Superintendent that he will stop touring, because it concerns salt which is necessary for our very life. This is one of the *Mamools*—this establishment of a boat and crew—and it is high time that it should be sent to the Museum. I do not know why a boat and crew is supplied by the Government for the Excise Superintendent. It can only be to go to Malippuram. For that the Excise Superintendent is paid Rs. 5. If the Government is to supply conveyance to Heads of Departments even to go to different places from the Head Office, and if they are to be paid daily allowance as well, then I do not know where we are going to be. There is absolutely no necessity for the existence of this item in the State budget. Motor boats are running from here to Cranganur almost every three hours and coming back also, and if the Excise Superintendent is so minded, he can get into one of them. If not, he can have his own boat ; I do not think other Heads of Departments are supplied with motor cars to go to Trippunittura and other places for the purposes of inspection. Then why this partiality to the Excise Superintendent alone by supplying him with a conveyance to go to Malippuram ? I am afraid to move this resolution, because salt is a most important thing, and he has already threatened me that he will not tour. Now,

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I propose to cut off the conveyance. Even in these circumstances, I cannot, in conscience, allow this item to continue in the budget.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I beg to support this motion.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—As I said in the forenoon, this establishment was allowed from 1093. This was primarily intended for the use of the Superintendent to go to Malippuram for six months very very often. It is not always possible to get for hire decent boats to go to Malippuram. Of course, it is said that there are Company motor launches. But these Company motor launches do not go to Malippuram. Even our Sirkar motor boats won't go there at low tide. No doubt there are two or three Sirkar boats, but I find from experience that it is not always safe to depend upon them, for at the time when I want a conveyance, none of them will be available. Now, the establishment consists of one syrang and a rower, and whenever I go to Malippuram, I have to employ three or four more persons generally, and I have to pay the boat hire. And there are occasions when this boat has to be used by other officers of the department just like the patrol boat of the Police Department. This boat, I think, is necessary for the Excise Department. In these circumstances Government did not think it necessary to do away with it.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Is it a motor boat?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is an ordinary cabin rowing boat.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Will the Hon'ble Member be kind enough to say how many times he used the boat last year? I want only a rough idea.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I do not remember exactly. I took charge in the latter part of 1099, and I found the boat to be absolutely useless, and it had to be repaired. So I was not able to use it on as many occasions as I wanted, because it was not in order. Now, it is in order.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—For how many tours did you make use of it last year?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I cannot say exactly how many times I used it. During the salt storage season, I have to use it very often.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Do you use it a dozen times a year?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I have to go some 3 or 4 times a month for six months, and during the other part of the year once or twice a month.

President.—What is the sort of boat that is supplied to the Police Department?

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Mr. Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur.—Motor boat, Sir.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—When Mr. Fenn was appointed Superintendent of Salt, he was asked to go to Malippuram every time that salt was to be taken delivery of, for which a boat was placed at his disposal, on the understanding that he would not get any travelling allowance for going to Malippuram. Subsequently, when the Cochin Financial Code was enacted and the travelling allowance rules revised, this fact was lost sight of. As Secretary to the Diwan, I should have brought this to the notice of the Diwan, but did not. I must cry peccavi; as Chairman of the Special Finance Committee, however, I am hoping to atone for that sin and receive absolution.

President.—Now, the question before the House is whether the allotment of Rs. 252 for establishment is to be passed or not.

The motion was put to the vote of the House and lost.

Excise—Total.

Motion No. 12.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,16,700 under "Demand No. VI" by one rupee.*

The above motion was not moved, and so it was considered withdrawn.

President.—The next motion stands in the name of Mr. M. Krishna Menon.

Motion No. 13.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—*To reduce the total allotment of 3,01,295 under "Demand No. VI" by one rupee.*

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—I beg to move to reduce the total allotment by Re. 1. The reason for this cut motion is to draw the attention of this House as well as the Government to one event which has recently taken place in the Excise Department. We have heard very much about the corruption in the subordinate staff of the Excise Department in this House. We have been hearing about it from the beginning of the Legislative Council. The complaint of *Mamool* and so many other things we have been hearing, and lately there was an opportunity for the Excise Department to attempt at reformation. That is, whether correctly or incorrectly, one of the Inspectors in the Excise Department who was taken by Mr. Brown and who worked successfully under Mr. Brown as well as the predecessor of the present Excise Superintendent was sent away out of the department, as I understand, to keep up the prestige of the department. As the President invariably remarks from the Chair "It is only a difference of opinion," I say that this difference of opinion must be a little bit honest. On the 11th of Mithunam, when I went through the Gazette, I found the period

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of degradation of aminadar No. 66, one Mr. P. V. Parasurama Ayyar, referred to in Service order No. 39, as cancelled from 1st of Mithunam 1102. That did not strike me at first. On the 18th Mithunam another notification came in the Gazette which took me by surprise. Mr. P. V. Parasurama Ayyar, 1st Grade Aminadar, Excise Department, is appointend as spt. Excise Inspector as a temporary measure, and posted to Trichur Taluk, vice Mr. C. P. Govinda Menon reverted. I thought it was going too far, and sent this cut motion. Now, when there was an opportunity for importing fresh blood or educated young men into the Excise Department to remove corruption in the subordinate staff, this is what has been done by the Excise Superintendent and the Government. One aminadar, a degraded man, whatever may be the reason—he was found unfit even to be an Aminadar and so degraded, and that man's degradation was cancelled, I say it is with a purpose, to hoist him up as temporary Inspector—is promoted. This temporary measure is one, which I most respectfully beg to submit before this House, just like a permanent appointment. This is the only, thin end of the wedge. When the next report comes, it will be that the man has been appointed temporary for six months, and he has been doing very good work, and it will be rather unfortunate to send him back as aminadar again. Why did the Government select two young men to be sent up for training to Vellore and spend a lot of money to get them trained as Inspectors of the Police Department? There are very many Head Constables—most of them probably not degraded—to be appointed as Sub-Inspectors, and there may be Sub-Inspectors also in the department—who have no degradation—who can very well be promoted as Inspectors. Why did the Government select two young men and send them to Vellore to get them trained for the Police Department? Here in the Excise Department there is a hue and cry with regard to every blessed soul in the subordinate staff. They would not give a free license without *Mamool*, and where is an opportunity for the Government to improve the moral tone of the department except by appointing educated young men—at least the tour charges of that particular division may be curtailed—that opportunity was not taken by the Government. There were respectable young men, even graduates and graduates-in-law, who were prepared to accept this job. At the time when Sir. P. Rajagopalachariar became the Diwan of Cochin, what he did was either to dismiss or dispense with the services or degrade the officers suspected of corruption, and he took many graduates from the College

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staff. I can count them by dozen, and all of them were very successful officers, and all of them have retired. When I came here for practice, I had to appear before so many of my teachers, and the very word of curruption went away from the State. Now, it is an admitted fact, and the Excise Superintendent also admits it, that, unless these people are changed, and unless the staff is improved, nothing better can be expected, and when an opportunity was obtained, and when an honest man was sent out of the Department, why not select another honest man, instead of promoting a degraded aminadar? What were the special qualifications, I ask. So I put forward this motion. I may state that this motion which I have put forward may be taken as a censure motion. (*Hear, hear.*) Nobody need vote for me in this particular matter unless they completely agree with me.

Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.—I rise to second the motion, and in seconding it, I simply say that I fully endorse the view expressed by the Hon'ble Member for Vyttila.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I rise to support the motion. I have had occasion on several occasions to know something about the working of this department. Like the Hon'ble Member for Vyttila, I am also one of the members of the Excise Committee. I can submit that a vast majority of all the preventive force of the executive staff of the Excise Department at present are doing their work in the most unsatisfactory manner. Look at this town of Ernakulam, from where all the liquor shops have been thrown outside the town. Is there any tea shop or any hotel in the town of Ernakulam where you cannot get half a dozen bottles of arrack? And do you mean to say that it is because the Excise Department or the executive staff of the Excise Department do not know this that such trade is going on? It would be very difficult for me to believe so. It is certainly because of the inefficiency of the Excise Department, if it is not something worse, as I have reasons to suspect. The department seems to neglect its duty purposely. There is not enough of supervision or many of these prohibited things would not happen. The executive staff of the department has gone down in their sense of morality, and whenever there is an opportunity to put in a fresh young man (a beginner) who has a bright future, it is the duty of the Government to do so, as far as possible. I do not ask you to send away all the present men, though I would like very much to do so. We should, as far as possible, put new young men who have got higher educational qualifications. Certainly a young man with higher educational qualifications will think twice before he does something dishonest. So it is the duty of the Government, as far as possible, whenever opportunity occurs,

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to put in educated men who have got a better morl astamina, and I regret that the Superin endent and the Government did not avail of the opportunity recently occurred by appointing a qualified man, in the place which recently fell vacant.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—There is one motion in my name. The object is more or less identical with this. So I shall speak a few words and not press my motion. The object I have given to the Council Secretary is to bring to the attention of the House the reversion of Mr.C.P. Govinda Menon. The Hon'ble Members might remember a series of questions I put in one of the legislative sessions regarding C. C. 26 of the Trichur First Class Magistrate's Court. Answers also were given by the Superintendent of Excise, and none of them were satisfactory. One Mr. C. P. Govinda Menon was now reverted, and it is to his place that this degraded aminadar was promoted. There was absolutely no charge or case made out against this Mr. Govinda Menon when the Excise Superintendent gave his replies. Now, this sort of degrading and promoting at once is more or less on the same footing as reverting a capable man at the caprice of the Head of the Department. I say caprice, because there was absolutely no case made out against him when the answers were given by him. If the Head of the Department does not agree with his subordinates on minor details, that does not affect the administration of the department; why should the subordinate be sent out? If the Head of the Department does not like a particular young man, he must swallow it. He cannot degrade a man according to his own likes and dislikes. It is to call attention to these facts that I have tabled this motion, and the object is more or less the same, and I heartily support it.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I had sent this cut motion to express my disapproval of the unsatisfactory working of this department, and I have great pleasure in supporting this motion.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, I do not wish to move the motion in my name separately. One of the reasons I have stated is the reversion of Mr. C. P. Govinda Menon. This Mr. Govinda Menon came to the department long ago and he had given entire satisfaction to all the Superintendents he served, except the present gentleman. Whatever be the reason for the present gentleman s animosity towards Mr. Govinda Menon, I am convinced that the reversion of a man who has served the department faithfully, to the best of his ability and conscie nciously, is a departure which should not be undertaken as easily as in this case.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—"Animosity". From where did he get it, Sir?

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Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I got it from the dictionary, Sir.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Are personal reflections allowed here, Sir?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I can prove that there is animosity against this Mr. Govinda Menon. I was unfortunately engaged in a certain case, and then I came to know the facts. What is Mr. Govinda Menon's fault? Let us take it for granted that Mr. Govinda Menon was at fault. There has been absolutely no charge which can justify the reversion of Mr. Govinda Menon.

There is one other matter also which I may make mention in regard to this motion. The other day there was a tobacco sale posted in Talapalli (Vadakkancheri). The Superintendent of Excise went there. The sale was, however postponed. Several persons went to the Vadakkancheri Taluk Office to bid on the occasion, and even seats had been arranged in the portico of the Taluk Office to conduct the sale, but the sale was not conducted. Latterly, there was some trouble between the Excise Superintendent and the Tahsildar with regard to the holding of the sale in the portico. Is this an excuse for putting off the sale? Would not the Government lose? Would not the people who went to the place lose? Who is there to compensate them? For these reasons I support the motion Private quarrels should not be brought into play in the discharge of public duties.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—With regard to the reversion of Mr. Govinda Menon, I vehemently repudiate the charge brought by the Member for Chalakkudi that he was reverted, because I did not like him. It is far from the fact.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I am very glad to hear that.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Why was he reverted?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I shall place the whole facts before you. One more fact I should say before doing so. It is said by the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur that in the questions he put concerning these charges on a former occasion, my answer with regard to the charges against Mr Govinda Menon were not satisfactory, but I assert that not a single question asked then related to the charges against Mr. Govinda Menon I am surprised to hear from my Hon'ble friend, for whom I have got the greatest respect, that these answers were not satisfactory.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—There was a supplementary question. I asked whether the Head of the Department was aware that there was a report by the Magistrate, etc. The President said that I am responsible for the question, and I said that I am, and he was pleased to give an answer that the Magistrate found that the charge is not true. It is not a question of

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the Magistrate finding it to be not true. Did the Excise Inspector enquire into it?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—On enquiry it was found not true. What is the question regarding the charge against Mr. Govinda Menon, and what is the answer that was found unsatisfactory? I leave it to the House to judge.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—What did the Magistrate say about the conduct of Mr. Govinda Menon in the judgment?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Magistrate stated that his prompt conduct was laudable.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—And he was reverted.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The charge before the Magistrate was not regarding the conduct of Mr. Govinda Menon in breaking open the table. The charge before the Magistrate was whether, as a matter of fact, a B class tobacco licensee at Trichur sold tobacco to another B class licensee.

With regard to the charges against Mr. Govinda Menon for which he was reverted, they are flagrant disobedience of orders and breach of discipline, and illegally breaking open the table of an A class licensee at dead of night and removing the contents.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—On a point of information, Sir, has the Magistrate in his judgment found that he broke open the table illegally?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Magistrate's opinion is conclusive only with regard to the finding of guilty or not guilty.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—The point on which I wish to get information is whether there was a finding by the Magistrate that the breaking open of the table was illegal.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I am very sorry.

President.—Who was the accused?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Three persons. Mr. Govinda Menon happened to be the officer who preferred the complaint on behalf of the Sirkar. I may be allowed to state the facts of the case very briefly. On the 16th Kanni, the Trichur Inspector, Mr. Govinda Menon, was given information by a man of Trichur, an A class tobacco licensee, to the effect that, contrary to the rules, the A class licensee of Kanjani, one Krishnan Nayar, who is said to have been doing business in a B class at Trichur, sold tobacco from the latter shop to a B class tobacco licensee at Ollur. Then he, at once, accompanied by the agent of the Trichur A class licensee, went to Ollur and asked the Ollur B class licensee to show the permit. The permit showed that the tobacco was sold from Krishnan Nayar's A class shop at Kanjani.

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The Inspector says that from some circumstances brought to his notice he suspected the B class licensee could not have purchased tobacco from Krishnan Nayar's A class shop.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Was he given license only on that day?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—At about 4 o'clock?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Then the Inspector went to Krishnan Nayar's A class shop at Kanjani at about 9 o'clock in the night. He found the shop closed. The A class licensee was not there (I am speaking these on his own admission). As soon as he went there, he asked the man in charge of the shop where the keys of the table were. He said that the keys had been taken away by the licensee Krishnan Nayar. The version of the Inspector is that he induced the man in charge of the shop to send for a blacksmith, that man actually sent for a blacksmith, but that, before the blacksmith unlocked the table, the man went away. Then the Inspector sent for the Sub-Inspector, and in his presence got the table opened by the blacksmith, and removed the permit and other books.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—On a point of information. Was it not in the presence of the gentlemen present that the blacksmith opened the table?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It was.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The Sub-Inspector was also present?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I said that. Then on the next morning the Inspector again went to Ollur, took the tobacco from the B class shop into his custody, and entrusted, or rather is said to have entrusted—for I don't know whether as a matter of fact he entrusted—the goods to the brother of B class licensee. These are the facts. Now, in the first place, according to the Tobacco Regulation, the Inspector has no power to make a search for permit or other records. He has got the power to search only for contraband tobacco. In this particular case his conduct in having searched an A class shop and got the table broken open and seized the records is high-handed and illegal

Mr A. Sankara Puduval.—We have grown sick of salt and liquor. We may be taken to the Medical demand as early as possible.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—That is illegality No. 1. Another illegality is, according to the provisions of the Tobacco Regulation, the Inspector has no power to entrust the tobacco he seized from the Ollur B class shop on *kychit*. Whenever an officer of the department seizes tobacco, it must be sent to

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the Magistrate within 24 hours. That is illegality No. 2. The 3rd thing is I asked him to send an explanation within a certain time.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—What was the time given ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Twenty-four hours from the receipt of it. Only 2 lines had to be written. The explanation was not only not submitted in time but was also couched in the most impudent and impertinent language.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—May we know a sample of it ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Government, on consideration of these facts—of course he was also asked to explain, but his explanation was not found satisfactory—reverted him. The Magistrate found that the case was absolutely false.

Then, as regards the adjournment of the date of the auction of tobacco shops of Talappalli, in fact I was conducting the auction there in the southern hall. As usual, I went there. There was absolutely no quarrel between me and the Tahsildar. I asked the Tahsildar, if the hall was available. He said that, on account of the Diwan Peishkar's Jamabandy, it was not available. A chair and a table were placed in front of the portion of the portico. The place was found to be too cramped for me to sit for hours together without prejudice to my health. Therefore, I said that, since no fit place in the Taluk Office was available, I could not conduct the sale. I reported the matter to the Diwan, and the Diwan also agreed with my view. These are the facts.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I move the closure motion.

President.—To reduce the allotment of 3 lakhs and odd by one rupee ?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—That is a censure motion.

Mr. A B. Salem.—Is it a censure on the Department or a censure on the Government ?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—It is a censure on the Departmental Head.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The appointment and reversion were made by the Government.

President.—Sixteen for and 15 against. Motion carried. I don't give my casting vote.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Let a poll be taken.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—The result must be announced.

President.—I don't vote.

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	Against.		For.
1.	Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon	1.	Mr. I. E. Ambooken
2.	,, K. Achyuta Menon	2.	,, Chakko Cheruvattur
3.	,, O. R. Chummar	3.	Dr. A. G. Menon
4.	,, P. Damodara Menon	4.	Mr E. Ikkanda Wariar
5.	,, A. Eachara Menon	5.	,, M. Krishna Menon
6.	,, K. Govinda Menon	6.	,, C. A. Kunjunni Raja
7.	,, K. P. Karuppan	7.	Srimati T. Madhavi Amma
8.	,, T. K. Krishna Menon	8.	Mr. S. F. Nunez.
9.	,, K. Krishna Pisharodi	9.	,, C. A. Ouseph
10.	,, C. Matthai	10.	,, N. Padmanabha Menon
11.	,, I. Raman Menon	11.	,, K. S. Rama Ayyar
12.	,, Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur	12.	,, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar
		13.	,, M. K. Raman
13.	,, V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar	14.	,, A. Ravunni Menon
14.	,, A. K. Vengu Ayyar	15.	,, K. Sankaran Nambudiri
15.	Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese	16.	,, A. Sankara Puduval

Motion Nos. 14–19.

Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,16,700 under "Demand No. VI" by Rs. 100.*

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,16,700 under "Demand No. VI" by Rs. 100.*

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,16,700 under "Demand No. VI" by one rupee.*

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,16,700 under "Demand No. VI" by one rupee.*

Mr. M. K. Raman.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,16,700 for "No. VI—Excise Total—" by one rupee.*

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,16,700 under "Demand No. VI" by one rupee.*

These motions were not pressed.

The Demand under Excise less Rs. 502 was put and passed.

Demand No. VIII.—Customs—Rs. 40,800.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I rise to move for an allotment of Rs. 40,800 under 'VIII—Customs."

Dr. A. G. Menon.— There are no cut motions regarding that. The demand may be put to the vote.

The question of granting the allotment under 'Customs' was put to vote and was carried.

President.—The next demand is "Medical".

Demand No. XXI—Medical—Rs. 2,29,554.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Sir, I rise to request the House for a vote of Rs. 2,29 554 under "XXI—Medical". In doing so, I hope my task is easy, at any rate at this stage, as the variations as compared with last year's figures are not many.

In the votable items, under the head of permanent establishment, the increase consists only in the allotment of subsistence allowance for the four Indian Nursing Sisters of the Civil

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Hospital, Trichur. These sisters have been voluntary workers until now, and this subsistence allowance of Rs. 20 per mensem is equivalent to the initial pay of the nurses.

Temporary Establishment.—There are five Sisters in the General Hospital, but their work has increased with the increased medical and surgical work in the Hospital, and the re-organisation of the nursing work. It is considered highly necessary to have a Sister for night duty. She would be required also to supervise the work of the Indian nurses and servants posted on night duty.

One compounder has been temporarily entertained for six months, as the out-patient attendance in the General Hospital has risen during the last six months to over 500 a day, and the present staff of compounders was found to be unequal to cope with the work.

Six nurses to strengthen the present nursing staff of the General Hospital which is now quite inadequate to meet the growing needs of the Hospital and four servants are provided for—one as a ward attendant for the X—Ray department, and one *totty* for the out-patient department of the General Hospital to do the necessary menial service arising from the large attendance and the two others are for the Civil Hospital, Trichur, where the staff of menial servants is quite inadequate to meet essential requirements.

Another item of expenditure, the only one outstanding figure requiring detailed explanation is the enhanced provision under the head of medicines. I may, at the very outset, say that it is only an apparently large provision, while, as a matter of fact, Rs. 20,000 is to be set apart out of it towards the part payment of the arrear liabilities on this account, which has been pointed out in the Finance Member's report.

I have already given during the general discussion a brief history of the accrual of these arrears, and explained that it was a legacy left to me when I assumed reins of office. In 1099, when I took charge, the amount of arrears stood at Rs. 52,374; deducting, as I said, Rs. 20,000 which is earmarked for the payment of arrears, you will observe that the actual allotment for medical supplies is only Rs. 75,000. This figure, again, by comparison with last year's, will appear to be an enhanced provision, whereas as a matter of fact, it is not so. Last year, when there was a fear of a deficit budget, the allotment was cut down to Rs. 68,000 to correspond with the actual payment during the previous year, losing sight of the fact that there was a large amount in arrears. Looking into the past budgets, I find that the allotment for medicines and the number treated were

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Year.	Allotment.	No. treated.
1097	75,000	3,10,447.
1099	75,000	3,48,947.
1100	80,000	4,47,527.
1101	75,000	5,11,423.

Then again, out of this provision of Rs. 75,000, a sum of Rs. 3,000 has to be set apart for the cost of anti-rabic vaccine which we buy from the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, for carrying out the treatment in the General Hospital. In 1097, this treatment was not instituted here, and in that year, the allotment was Rs.75,000. Please note that this is a sum which has been allotted for 1103. I need hardly say that it is inadequate for, striking an avera e of actual expenditure on medicines and instruments from 1094- 1102, I get a sum of Rs.80,000 as the average annual cost.

I do not see any other figure requiring explanation in the Medical budget except a sum of Rs. 300 under allowance to the Medical officer, Lunatic Asylum, at Rs. 25 per mensem. The duties of the Lunatic Asylum are of a specialised kind, and the charge of that institution deprives the Medical officer of the chance of practice which he would otherwise have, if he were in charge of a dispensary. In the Madras Presidency all Medical officers posted to Lunatic Asylums are given a special allowance which is much higher than what has been now provided.

With this explanation, I move the House for the grant applied for.

415 **Mr. S. F. Nunez.**—On a point of information. I wish to know, if there is any method in the opening of rural dispensaries—that is to say, how many rural dispensaries are to be opened in 1103, and how many to be opened in subsequent years according to any definite plan.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There is a sum of Rs. 4,200, and 7 dispensaries are going to be opened in the next year.

416 **Mr. S. F. Nunez.**—May I know whether there was a petition from Kailetinkara near the Irinjalakkuda Railway Station to locate a dispensary there?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Their request came to me rather late, that is, after the arrangements were made. We have had a petition from Palhanji, and these petitions came when all the arrangements had already been made. They all will be considered in due course. Further, I must also say that opening of new dispensaries will depend upon the successful working of the dispensaries that we have now started for the first time. If they are all successful, I can say that more will be started.

417 **Mr. S. F. Nunez.**—May I know whether the department is convinced that a dispensary is necessary there?

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Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I have not investigated that point so carefully, but I know that rural dispensaries of small dimensions may be located anywhere. There is no place where a rural dispensary cannot be put. And if this experiment is popular and successful, I am sure Government will only be too glad to subscribe more dispensaries.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—There is one motion in my name. I do not move it.

Hospitals—Motion No. 1.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,420 for "temporary establishment."*

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I don't move it, Sir.

Supplies and Services—Motion No. 2.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 95,000 for "cost of medicines, instruments, etc.," by one rupee.*

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Sir, I have brought this cut motion to bring to the notice of the Government the inadequate supply of medicines to the Chittur Hospital. That is the chief Hospital and in the headquarters of the Chittur Taluk. The amount spent on medicine supply to the Chittur Hospital is less than the amount for which medicines are supplied to all the other Hospitals in the State and dispensaries except perhaps Palhayannur.

President.—Supply must be according to the necessity of the Hospital.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I am going to say that. Every prescription had to be taken to the medical shop for adding one or two ingredients. I do not mind, if it is only to those persons who can afford to pay. Take the case of poor patients. I can quote one instance. When I was there, a patient came, and he was examined and a prescription given to him. He took the prescription to the compounder. The compounder ran up to the Assistant Surgeon saying that some of the ingredients were not there. The Assistant Surgeon said "All right, let him purchase it from the shop". The compounder returned saying that he could not afford to pay for it. The Assistant Surgeon then took the prescription from him and changed the medicine. I do not know how they can change the medicines. Let the doctors say that. Sir, the Kuriarkutti Hospital has been before us for some time; even there, according to the Chief Medical Officer, Cinchona febrique was in use, and according to the Member for Irinjalakkuda, Quinine alone was necessary for fever. I know that for the last six years this has been the custom in the Chittur Hospital, and there was no medicine. I simply want to call the attention of the Government to that. I withdraw the motion.

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Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I hear this fact now voiced forth by the Member for Chittur for the first time. The Medical officer is the person who should complain that there is no medicine.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—But we are the sufferers.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I have not received any complaint.

Dr. A. G Menon.—If he has not received any, here is a complaint and I hope the Senior Medical Officer will take proper steps.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I may assure this House that year by year the supply of medicine has to be increased. But we base our indent on 18 months' supply, that is to take the previous year's expenditure of 12 months and add half of that and thus arrive at the quantity necessary for the succeeding year. The rule of indent making is to take the previous year's expenditure and half as much again. But patients are increasing to such an extent that very often it is not sufficient to meet the needs of the place. Now, Chittur has got a rather popular Medical officer, and I believe the number of patients has increased much larger than it ever has in its previous history. So I really believe that medicines may be running short. I am aware of this complaint from everywhere, because, as I said, our budget has continued the same, while the number of patients has increased to an enormous extent, and so we have not been able to adequately satisfy the demand. I do admit that there may be deficiencies, and I will take care that all requisition for an extra indent as far as possible is considered. One great disadvantage is that we cannot store a very large quantity of medicine. We can only keep a limited supply in the reserve stores.

President.—You will just make a note of it.

The remaining cut motions are not pressed.

The following motions were not moved:—

Motions Nos. 3—6.

Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 95,000 for "cost of medicines, instruments, etc.," by Rs. 20,000.*

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 95,000 for "cost of medicines, etc.," by one rupee.*

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 95,000 for "supplies and services (cost of medicines, etc.)," by Rs 20,000.*

Mr K. T Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,200 for "Rural Dispensaries" by one rupee.*

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Hospital—Total.

Motion No. 7.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,86,420 under "Hospitals" by one rupee.*

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Sir, I have tabled a token motion to reduce rupee one under "Hospitals—total." My object is to bring to the notice of this House the injustice done to one of the best Medical officers in the Cochin State service. I refer to the Lady Doctor, Mrs. Kholoff, in charge of the Women and Children's Hospital, Mattancheri. She was the first amongst our lady surgeons in our service to go to Europe and qualify herself duly. She returned well-equipped with the up-to-date experience of the medical world of Europe. What did Government do to her in return? Practically nothing. Diwan Mr. Narayana Menon, who was very sympathetic towards her, was pleased to give only a pittance of Rs. 30. Sir, is this the way in which Government should encourage the service of a female officer in the State service. She has been the pioneer in this direction for other women in the service, not in Medical Department alone but also in other departments, conducting themselves in the best way, so that they may be of service and real utility to the people at large. I, as a Member of the Sub-committee to the Special Finance Committe, had occasion to go to the Mattancheri Hospital in company with Mr. Marayil Krishna Menon, and we both found that the Hospital was one of the best equipped and well-conducted ones in our State. I understand that she has put in an application for further encouragement, and since she has only a couple of years to retire, if the Government were to tell her that she should wait for the Special Finance Committee's report, she may have no occasion to enjoy the benefits of any increment which may be given to her. Under the plea that she should wait for the Special Finance Committee's report, I hope that legitimate satisfaction of her claims will not be ignored.

Last year on the occasion of the budget session, the case of the Registrar of the Chief Court was brought to the notice of this House. He was doing a very responsible work, though the work is light indeed, and as a result of a Member bringing that point to the notice of this House, the pay of the Chief Court Registrar was increased not only to the maximum of Rs. 250, but the maximum itself was raised to 300 rupees. Government did not wait for the report of the Special Finance Committee in regard to that matter, and the Goverment did rightly, and what I want to request the Government is to do in the case of Mrs. Kholoff also what the Government has already done in the case of the Chief Court Registrar. And I hope my request will be echoed by the other non-official members in this House.

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Dr. A. R. Menon.—I rise to second this motion, and in doing so, I may state that it was a great pleasure to me that the Chief Medical Officer has borne testimony to her work in the Hospital for more than two decades.

Unfortunately, the time for retirement is approaching, and even if the new scheme without revealing any secret of the Finance Committee's Report— is carried out, I have my own doubts whether it would be of any benefit to her. It has been the custom on the part of the Government, and it has been the rule of the Government—and a right rule too in my opinion—that in some special cases Government may go a bit out of their way to show their consideration and their appreciation of honest and loyal work contributed to the State.

And at a time when ladies were not forthcoming to take up this work as they are doing now, this lady entered into the service, and it stands to reason that, if there is any occasion where Government may show a little generosity, apart from absolute justice, this is one of those occasions. Considering the fact that the Head of the Department has also favourably reported in her case, I believe it would be an act of courtesy and an act of generosity on the part of this Council, if, by vote or representation, we bring to the notice of the Government this special case.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, the Medical Department is one of the very few departments in which females may lay claim to higher appointments. A man may be treated either by a male or by a female doctor. Mrs. Kohlhoff has suffered, because she is a female. She entered service long before some of those who are now drawing higher salaries had entered the portals of any medical college or of the department. She went to England long before some of those who are drawing higher salaries at present because of their European qualification. Now, Sir, does she not suffer, because she is a female? Does it stand to reason that a person who discharges the duties of a medical officer efficiently should not be encouraged, because that person is a female? In Travancore we have the unique instance of a lady doctor being put in charge of the Medical Department itself (*Hear, hear*). Sir, I am not so ambitious as that in the case of Mrs. Kohlhoff. I do not want that she should be put in charge of the medical institution which is now carried on by the Member for Medicine. But, Sir, let justice be done. She has spent money out of her own pocket. While others were sent for study at State expense, she did not get her study allowances even. So that we would only be doing justice to her, if some encouragement is given to her in the shape of some increase of salary.

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Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—Sir, I rise to support this motion. I endorse every word that has been said by previous speakers on the subject. As a member of the Special Finance Committee, I had occasion to visit the Mattancheri Hospital with my friend, Mr. Nunez. As a layman, if one goes and sees the Hospital itself without unde rstanding the nature of the work that is being done there, one is struck with the neatness and the way in which things are managed in that Hospital. And Mrs. Kholoff is the only doctor in the Cochin State who has been able to influence the public of Cochin to erect a building within the premises. She was able to collect money from the public and get a building erected, for the convenience of the caste ladies who want separate accommodation. There is not a single other doctor in the whole of Cochin State who was able to influence a single individual to subscribe one pie and do something for the comfort of the patients in the Hospital. By some sort of manipulation, as it were, when her turn comes, others will be promoted. When it comes to the question of an Assistant Surgeon, she will be made Sub-assistant, and when it comes to the question of a Civil Surgeon, she will be made Assistant Surgeon, and by a manipulation, she was not given any promotion. Now, it is time for her retirement, and I do not know how many years there are for her to enjoy any benefit by being in the service. So I respectfully submit to this House that it is an absolute necessity to encourage such work, and something must be done, so far as Mrs. Kholoff is concerned.

President.—Government has to take note of this.

419 **Mr. S. F. Nunez.**—I wish to hear something from the Chief Medical Officer.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I have very great pleasure in bearing testimony to the excellent work and capacity displayed by Mrs. Kohloff in the administration of the Women's Hospital at Cochin. My personal experience of her has impressed me as a typical lady doctor, highly tactful and generally popular. Her work, I am glad to say, has been highly satisfact ry. And I hope that, from the opinion expressed by this House, some encouragement may be given to her.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—He has withdrawn the motion, and we have only to put the Demand to the vote of the House.

The Demand of Rs. 2,29,554 under "XXI—Medical" was put to votes and carried.

Medical—Total

Motions Nos. 8—12.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,13,100 under "Demand No. XXI" by one rupee.*

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Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,13,100 under "Demand No. XXI" by Rs. 100.*

Dr. A. R. Menon.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,29,554 under "Demand No. XXI" by one rupee.*

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,29,554 under "Demand No. XXI" by one rupee.*

Mr. K. Sankaran Nambudiri.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,13,100 under "Demand No. XXI" by Rs. 100.*

The above motions were not moved, and were, therefore, considered to have been withdrawn.

President.—The next Demand is Vaccination.

Demand No. XXII—Vaccination—Rs. 8,700.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Sir, I beg to move for sanction of an expenditure of Rs. 8,700 under "Vaccination, XXII."

The Demand was put to the vote of the House and carried.

Demand No. XXIII—Sanitation and Conservancy—Rs. 51,000.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 51,000 under "XXIII—Sanitation and Conservancy."

President.—There is a cut motion in the name of Srimati T. Madhavi Amma.

Municipal Councils.
Motion No. 1.

Srimati T. Madhavi Amma.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,000 for the "Government Contributions to Municipal Councils" by one rupee.*

Srimati T. Madhavi Amma.—We see a sum of Rs. 9,000 budgetted here in the shape of contributions to Municipalities. I don't know what amount, out of this, is going to be given to the Ernakulam Municipality. Anyway, I tabled this cut in order to point out the necessity to improve the condition of the roads, and gutters on both sides of these roads. I remember of having read in one of the books that a person's neatness can be judged by a look on his finger-nails. Judging from this standpoint, we can more or less understand how things are managed by this Municipality by the way in which these roads and gutters are kept. Granite metalling is, I believe, unknown to this place. The adoption of close gutter system would have stopped the insanitary condition of open-gutters also. Therefore, the Municipality must be made known that it lacks its responsibility in keeping public roads and gutters clean for the sake of public health; otherwise the Government's object in supplying them with Aiwaye water has no meaning.

President.—You don't press it?

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Srimati T. Madhavi Amma.—No. It is only to bring this fact to the notice of the Municipality through the Government.

Motion No.2

Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,000 for "Contribution to the Municipal Councils" by Rs. 2,000.*

The above motion was not moved, and so it was treated as withdrawn.

Motion No. 3.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,361 for "Rural Sanitation—establishment" by one rupee.*

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Sir, I have tabled this motion to call the attention of the Member in charge of Medicine to the fact that he had not carried out what he promised last time, when he was asked that some work should be given to the Sanitary Inspectors. I thought that something was going to be done. We have been harping on the same string for the last so many times. They have very little work. They have to attend to the verification of only 75 per cent of the vaccinated cases, and this they can do, if they go to a Primary school. For the rest of the time they have no work. At least the Chittur Inspector does so. I had proposed that they may be put in charge of the coolies under the Panchayat. They have no supervision over their work. Unfortunately the Panchayat is under another head of the department. Practically they have no work.

President.—Why can't you do away with them?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I think I must enlighten the Hon'ble Member for Chittur that it is rather an exaggeration to say that they have no work at all now, and that I have not allotted any work for the Chittur Sanitary Inspector. When I enumerate what the duties of the Sanitary Inspectors are, this House would be able to know more or less what they are expected to do. Their duties are inspection of markets and slaughter houses, supervision of vaccination and verification of cases done by vaccinators. This question was brought to my notice by the Government at the instance of the Standing Finance Committee, that vaccination is not properly attended to, and the Sanitary Inspector goes only to the Primary school, and seldom visits private houses. I at once called for a special report of the whole work. I will not tire this House with all these reports, but I will just read one report by one Inspector which will go to show that the information which has reached the Hon'ble Member is not exactly correct.

"I beg to submit herewith a statement of vaccination performed by the vaccinators of the Southern Division in the villages and in Primary schools during the past 11 months of

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the current year and the nature of verification work done by me in connection with the same.

" From this statement the following facts can be observed as detailed below:—

i.	Number of cases vaccinated in the schools for 11 months by the vaccinators in *schools*	5,111
ii.	Do in *villages*	4,205
iii.	Number of cases verified by the S. I., S. Division, in *schools* during 11 months of the current year	3,209
iv.	Do in *villages* during 11 months of the current year.	3,618 "

Thus it becomes clear that 86·04 per cent of the cases vaccinated in the *villages* were verified by the S. I., S. Division, and only 62.78 per cent of the cases vaccinated in the *schools* were verified by him during the aforesaid period of 11 months. And then these markets everywhere are licensed, and the duty of collection of kists periodically also devolves upon them. Visiting slaughter houses and seeing that all slaughter houses and markets and cart-stands are kept clean also form part of their duty, as well as sanitary arrangements during fairs and festivals. The Hon'ble Member for Cranganur will bear testimony to the sanitary arrangement and supervision work during the *Bharani* festival.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—He did splendid work.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—That is the time when epidemics are likely to arise. When people congregate, there should be a reserve supply of water and latrines should be cleansed and every arrangement made for the prevention of epidemics.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—What about Chittur? We had a very bad epidemic—small-pox.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Sanitary Inspectors have done what they could in that epidemic. And then, about the general improvement of sanitation. Now, it is rather in a very unsatisfactory state. Rural sanitation in this State is unsatisfactory. I have in conjunction with the Diwan Peishkar drawn up a skeleton scheme for rural sanitary improvements. It is now before the Special Finance Committee and Government. They are considering it, and I hope that you will admit rural sanitation is a most important subject which is, I must say, at the bottom of the health of the whole State. The people of the whole State say that something has to be done towards the improvement of rural sanitation. Rural sanitation is really what is called rural reconstruction. That matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

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Dr. A. R. Menon.—I want to take advantage of this occasion to present a case on behalf of one of my friends who, on account of religious scruples, could not take part in to-day's proceedings, and therefore, is now sitting in the Visitors' Gallery. The point I wish to bring to the notice of the Government in his behalf is this. There has been a complaint regarding the cremation ground in Cochin, and the Government proposed to remove the cremation ground to some other locality. It so happened, as is invariably the case, that, since a cremation ground is not a very desirable neighbourhood for any one, the people of the locality raised a protest against its location there. What we would like to know from the Government is whether it would be possible for the Government to have a cremation ground outside the congregated area of the Municipality. If it could be done, then it would be a great convenience to the people who live in these congregated areas. I want to bring this matter to the consideration of this House.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—A representation was received here on the 7th or 8th of Karkadagam, and the matter has been referred to the Chairman of the Municipal Council, Cochin.

President.—That is all right.

Motions Nos. 4 — 8.

The Pulaya Colony.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for "Pulaya Colony" by one rupee.*

Sanitation and Conservancy—Total.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 51,100 under "Demand No. XXIII" by one rupee.*

Mr. S.F. Nunez.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 51,100 under "Demand No. XXIII" by one rupee.*

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 51,100 under "Demand No XXIII" by one rupee.*

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 51,100 undr "Demand No. XXIII" by one rupee.*

As the above motions were not moved, they were considered to have been withdrawn.

The Demand under "Sanitation and Conservancy", of Rs. 51,000 was put to vote and carried.

Demand No. XXXI—Miscellaneous—Rs. 1,19,532.

President.—Now let us take up Miscellaneous.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We have no cut.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 1,19,532 under "Demand No. XXXI—Miscellaneous", votable demand for the current year 1102, was Rs. 15,402, so that there

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is an increase of Rs. 1,41,030 in the demand for 1103. This increase is largely the result of the provision of a lakh of rupees for revision of pay for low-paid establishments and 7,000 rupees for the uplift of the depressed classes. The former was made as recommended by the Special Finance Committee, and the allotments for the different establishments according to the final recommendation of the Committee will be appropriated from this provision. The latter was necessitated by the appointment of the Protector of the Depressed Classes, and definite proposals will be formulated by the Protector before utilising this provision. I request that the demand may be granted.

President.—There are two cut motions.

Motions Nos. 1 and 2.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,000 for "uplift of the depressed classes" by one rupee.*

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,68,000 under "Demand No. XXXI" by one rupee.*

Dr. A. G Menon.—We don't press them.

President.—Then I shall put the demand to the vote of the House.

The Demand under "Miscellaneous" was put and carried.

President.—This day's work is over and we shall rise.

The House rose for the day at 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

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